

## **King David**

### **Summary**

- David was Israel's most important king
- Anointed by Samuel
- Harp player for Saul
- Defeated a giant (Goliath) in battle with a slingshot (and faith)
- Ruled Israel and led his soldiers to conquer many regions
- Wrote many poems (psalms) about his faith in God

### **Childhood and Young Adulthood**

- Shepherd
- Brave - clubbed to death any animals that threatened the sheep, even lions and bears. Believed God protected him

### **God's Anointed**

- Saul had displeased God
- Samuel to appoint new King. Anointed David, Jesse's youngest son, with holy oil
- David became Saul's armour bearer, and soothed his temper by playing the harp

### **Goliath's Killer**

- David was still a boy
- Whoever won that fight won the battle for his army, and the other side would become slaves.
- King Saul even offered his oldest daughter in marriage and life without taxes to the man who would fight!
- David went to brook, chose five smooth stones, and used his sling-shot to hit Goliath in the forehead. Then he took Goliath's sword, and cut off his head.
- Saul was jealous of David – the crowds chanted "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

### **Then...**

- More than once Jonathan saved David's life when Saul was out to murder him.
- Jonathan realised that David was God's choice to be the next king
- Saul promised his oldest daughter's hand in marriage to the man who killed Goliath, but did not keep his promise
- David wanted to marry Michal, a younger daughter
- Saul consented as long as David single-handedly killed a hundred Philistines – he hoped that this would be the end of David!
- Instead, David killed two hundred Philistines (1 Samuel 18:6-30)!
- David married Michal, and she also saved him from being murdered by Saul.

### **Husband and Father**

- David had at least eight wives and several children
- He made political alliances through many of his marriages

### **David the King**

- Firstly, David was only King of Judah (southern section of Israel)
- But he knew Israel well, having been "on the run" from Saul for so long, and already had allies all over the country.

## **1. King in Hebron**

- When David heard of the death of Saul and Jonathan, he wrote a beautiful tribute to them. Also commended those who had given Saul a respectable burial – he wants them on his side now!
- Anointed King in Hebron, by the leaders of Judah.
- Among the other tribes, there was chaos:
  - The Philistines held much territory, and the Hebrew leaders could not decide who should be King.
  - Some Hebrew tribes gave allegiance to Saul's son, Ishbosheth. Saul's general, Abner, had Ishbosheth crowned King. Result – **civil war** between the tribes that supported Ishbosheth and those that supported David.
  - David grew stronger while Ishbosheth grew weaker.
  - Eventually, Ishbosheth annoyed Abner, and Abner swore allegiance to David.
  - David requested that Michal, his wife and Saul's daughter, be restored to him – showed that David still respected Saul's family. Ishbosheth agreed. Abner went to Hebron to pledge allegiance to David from Ishbosheth's former supporters. While Abner was there, he was killed by Joab, one of David's captains. To show his disapproval, David mourned Abner and executed his murderers.
  - Shortly after that, two men seeking David's favour stabbed Ishbosheth to death in his bed. David executed the men for this. He had Ishbosheth buried with Abner, and David became the only king in Israel, supported by all the tribal families. David reigned forty years-seven years over Judah and another thirty-three years over all of Israel.

## **2. King in Jerusalem**

- Jerusalem David's new centre of government, and from here he organised his territories.
- Made alliances with the Phoenicians so that he could obtain building supplies for a new palace.
- Began arrangements for moving the Ark of the Covenant. A man died when it was transported by cart, though, because the ark was not being carried the way God wanted!
- David attempted to make plans for building a temple in Jerusalem for the ark, but Nathan the prophet was told by God that David's son, not David, would build the temple.

## **Conqueror of Israel's Enemies**

- By c. 1000 B.C., David's armies had extended his rule west to the Nile River, east to the Tigris-Euphrates valley, south into the territory of the Edomites, Moabites, and Amalekites, and north to the Ammonites and the Arameans (Syrians).
- Very powerful kingdom – even controlled the Philistines, eventually.
- When conquering new peoples, David treated them justly and thanked God for his victories.

## **David the Man**

- Successful King, but had a problematic household (see 2 Samuel)
- David had several wives (prohibited by Old Testament law)
- Committed adultery many times
- Bathsheba – tried to hide what he had done – Nathan's parable. BUT, David then confessed his sin, and asked for forgiveness. There were still consequences, though!

## **Final Acts**

- Made preparations for the building of the temple in Jerusalem.
- Well-established army and government. Rewarded his loyal followers.
- Began a census of Israel – but realised that was a selfish act, not part of God's plan. In repenting of this sin, David and elders had vision of an angel on the threshing floor outside of Jerusalem. David designated this as the site for the temple when it was built.

### **Psalms**

- Psalms (religious poems in the Bible) quickly became one of the most popular books of the Old Testament in ancient Israel.
- David's psalms are hymns of praise to God. Psalms have always inspired poets and writers, and they continue today to be among the most translated portions of Scripture.
- David wrote about seventy-three of the 150 psalms in the Bible
- Rest were collected by him and his son or added later
- They were set to music and used in worship in the temple when it was built
- David's had set the tone for Israelite worship for many generations to come

### **Leader of God's People**

- Old Testament prophets see David as an example of strong and faithful leadership
- The coming Messiah is compared to David and is said to be from the lineage of David.
- The prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos, and Zechariah all associate David with the eternal kingdom and the rule of God.
- In the New Testament, David is described as the ancestor of the Messiah and a recipient of God's promises. Jesus is called the "son of David", "the key of David" and the "root of David".